



June 12, 2009

**To:** David R. Cook, P.E.  
Chair, ASME Old Guard Committee

**From:** Jen Jewers, P.E.  
Chair, Committee on Early Career Development

**Subject:** Recommended changes to the existing ASME Old Guard Early Career Forum and ASME Old Guard Early Career Technical Conference Grants

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The Committee on Early Career Development (CECD) acknowledges the great contributions made by the Old Guard Committee to the early career programs carried out in the last two (2) years.

The Old Guard support has contributed to the success of three (3) Early Career Forums (ECFs) that have attracted a combined audience of more than 150 early career engineers. The ECFs provided a venue for the discussion of hot topics concerning the professional development of our early career members.

These events include ECFs on:

- Universidad del Zulia of Venezuela, November 2008
- Western Washington & North Puget Sound Sections, May 2009
- New Mexico Section in conjunction with the Power Division, July 2009

The CECD has compiled a list of recommended changes to the grants intended to improve and diversify funding. This will make the grants more general in order to include a wider-range of early career programs and align with two of the new ASME Governance Strategies; (1) Engineering Workforce Development and (2) Globalization.

These recommended changes are as follows:

1. Combine the two existing grants into one new grant with one application.
2. Change the current names of the grants into the combined grant name of "**Early Career Initiative Grant**".
3. Allowable funding would be an nominal \$3000 per grant up to a maximum dollar amount for all grants to be determined by the Old Guard annually.
4. A new grant application should be created that allows more flexibility and creativity in the type of program, but is also inclusive of Early Career Forums and Early Career

Technical Conferences. The CECD would be happy to assist in the development of this application.

5. Applications should be accepted on a continuous basis and the due date should be six (6) months prior to the project/initiative for which the grant is requested. The CECD commits to keeping the grant website current with how many grants are still available or when funding for a year has been depleted. The CECD with a liaison from the Old Guard Committee would make the funding decisions.
6. The requirement that the grants be awarded as one per district should be removed. All received applications should be evaluated based on the new criteria set and merit. The CECD commits to actively peruse the hot spots geographically to determine the viability for new projects/initiatives that will reach early career engineers and welcome projects/initiatives that will make an impact as part of the review process.
7. The CECD should be responsible for reviewing and determining the projects/initiatives to be funded with a consultation with the Old Guard liaison.